

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 22, wherein the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

12. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphical user interface.

13. (Currently amended) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the graphical user interface is configured to allow the user to define[[s]] arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A universal auction specification system comprising:

a market specification console configured to receive at least one market protocol from a user ~~to dictate the behavior of a universal auction system~~, the at least one market protocol including ~~a customizable set of~~ at least one market phase, wherein the market phase is defined by one or more user selectable trading primitives that dictate the behavior of one or more components in a programmable auction server; and

a programmable auction server in communication with the market specification console, the programmable auction server to receive the at least one market protocol defined by the market specification console, the programmable auction server to implement the protocol to deploy the universal auction system and to manage trading of at least one good auctioned by at least one auction participant in the universal auction system.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 22 wherein the market phase includes an interval in which at least one transaction occurs.

25. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 22 wherein the transaction is selected from the group including submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

26. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 22 wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.

27. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 26 wherein the condition is a time period.

28. (Currently amended) A method of managing the trading of goods auctioned by auction participants comprising:

receiving at least one market protocol from a user ~~to dictate the behavior of a universal auction system~~, wherein the at least one market protocol includes ~~a customizable set of~~ at least one market phase, wherein the market phase is defined by one or more user selectable trading primitives that dictate the behavior of one or more components in a programmable auction server; and

implementing the protocol to deploy the universal auction system.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphical user interface.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to allow the user to define[[s]] arbitrary market protocols ~~via the graphical user interface~~.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the market phase includes an interval in which at least one transaction occurs.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the transaction is selected from the group including submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the condition is a time period.

36. (Currently amended) A computer program product for managing the trading of goods auctioned by auction participants, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving at least one market protocol from a user ~~to dictate the behavior of a universal auction system~~, wherein the at least one market protocol includes ~~a customizable set of~~ at least one market phase, wherein the market phase is defined by one or more user selectable trading primitives that dictate the behavior of one or more components in a programmable auction server; and

implementing the protocol to deploy the universal auction system.

37. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

38. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphical user interface.

39. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to allow the user to define[[s]] arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

40. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the market phase includes an interval in which at least one transaction occurs.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the transaction is selected from the group including submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.
43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the condition is a time period.